

Message Text

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FOLLOWING TEL SENT SECSTATE FROM CARACAS 12 DECEMBER REPEATED

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 10620

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: PROPOSAL FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER TO HEAD U.S.

DELEGATION TO VENEZUELAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IN
MARCH 1974.

1. NOW THAT IT IS EVIDENT THAT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ WILL
BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA, I HAVE SET UP AN EMBASSY
TASK FORCE TO ANALYZE HIS FIRST POLICY STATEMENT OF
YESTERDAY, OF WHICH SUMMARIES ARE PROVIDED BY CARACAS
TELEGRAMS 10599 AND 10600, AND TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR OUR
FIRST CONTACTS WITH THE NEW MINISTERS ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN
NOMINATED BY THE PRESIDENT-ELECT. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS
TO DEPARTMENT WILL, OF COURSE, FIRST BE SUBMITTED FOR
COMMENT AND APPROVAL THERE BEFORE WE SOUND OUT
VENEZUELAN.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THIS TELEGRAM, HOWEVER, IS TO SUGGEST
THAT THERE WOULD BE GREAT IMPACT BENEFICIAL TO THE U.S.
IF THE HEAD OF OUR DELEGATION FOR THE INAUGURATION OF
PRESIDENT PEREZ SHOULD BE NONE OTHER THAN SECRETARY
KISSINGER.

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3. THE SECRETARY WILL HAVE HAD A GOOD DEAL OF BENEFICIAL
CONTACT WITH THE OUTGOING VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER,
DR. CALVANI, AT THE UPCOMING MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN
MINISTERS IN MEXICO CITY. HOWEVER, CALVANI WILL BY THAT

TIME REPRESENT A LAME DUCK GOVERNMENT; AND I SHOULD GREATLY DOUBT IF HE WOULD TAKE ALONG A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INCOMING ADECO GOVERNMENT.

4. BY THE TIME CARLOS ANDRES IS INAUGURATED, WHICH WILL BE WITHIN THE FIRST FORTNIGHT OF NEXT MARCH, WE IN THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON SHOULD HAVE DEVELOPED A LINE OF POLICY AS TO HOW TO DEAL WITH VENEZUELA IN COMING YEARS. SUCH A POLICY WILL BE DESIGNED TO PUSH OUR LEGITIMATE EXPECTATIONS FOR ASSURING A RELIABLE SOURCE OF PETROLEUM FROM VENEZUELA FOR MANY YEARS TO COME, INCLUDING THE EVENTUAL EXPLOITATION OF THE ORINOCO BELT. IT WILL ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT VENEZUELA IS OUR THIRD MOST IMPORTANT MARKET IN LATIN AMERICA AND CONTRIBUTES MORE THAN 1.2 BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, SUCH A POLICY WILL HAVE TO ACCOMMODATE THE ANNOUNCED EXPECTATIONS OF THE NEW VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT THAT SOMEHOW OR OTHER VENEZUELA WILL GET A MORE EQUITABLE DEAL IN ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE EMBASSY TAKS FORCE IS WORKING ON THIS PROBLEM NOW.

5. IF, AS I HOPE, WE HAVE OUR DUCKS LINED UP BY NEXT MARCH, THERE WOULD BE NO MORE EFFECTIVE WAY OF PERSUADING THE NEW VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT TO SEE EYE TO EYE WITH US THAN FOR OUR OWN SECRETARY OF STATE TO PRESIDE OVER THE INAUGURAL DELEGATION AND TO HAVE DIRECT CONVERSATIONS WITH CARLOS ANDRES WHICH WOULD SET THE STAGE FOR PRODUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. OF COURSE, I UNDERSTAND THE TREMENDOUS DEMANDS MADE UPON THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE AND I SHALL BE QUITE PREPARED IF THE ANSWER MUST OF NECESSITY BE NEGATIVE. HOWEVER, IT IS MY DUTY TO LOOK AT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARTICULAR CONCERN. CLEARLY NOTHING COULD BE MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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CALCULATED TO PROMOTE THOSE RELATIONSHIPS TO U.S. INTEREST THAN A VISIT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER FOR THE MARCH INAUGURAL OF CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ. FROM A BROADER, HEMISPHERIC DIPLOMATIC POINT OF VIEW, SUCH AN HONOR PAID BY THE UNITED STATES TO A VENEZUELA WHICH HAS SO IMPRESSIVELY DEMONSTRATED THE WORKINGS OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY, WOULD NOT GO UNNOTICED. MCCLINTOCK
UNQTE
RUSH

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